

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00876 111221Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAEC-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SSC-01
EB-08 COME-00 AGRE-00 /061 W
-----111303Z 123924 /53

R 111031Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6880

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 0876

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PINT, CE
SUBJECT: CABINET RESHUFFLE

REF: COLOMBO 0750

1. AS A RESULT OF THE RESIGNATION OF INDUSTRIES MINISTER T.B. SUBASINGHE MARCH 1(REFTEL) AND OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PRE-ELECTION EMPHASIS ON IMPORTS OF FOOD AND TEXTILES, SOME CABINET PORTFOLIOS WERE RESHUFFLED MARCH 11. THE ONLY NEW FULL CABINET MEMBER IS V.T. G. KARUNARATNE, FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, WHO WAS MADE MINISTER OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY, A NEW PORTFOLIO DESIGNED TO CONCENTRATE ATTENTION ON THE POOR PRODUCTION OF STATE TEXTILE FACTORIES AND PRESUMABLY TO COORDINATE INCREASED CLOTH IMPORTS (THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE ALLOCATION FOR TEXTILE IMPORTS ROSE 208 PERCENT FROM 1976 TO 1977).

2. FELIX R.DIAS BANDARANAIKE GAVE UP HIS JUSTICE PORTFOLIO, EXCHANGING IT FOR THAT OF FOOD AND COOPERATIVES, WHILE KEEPING HIS MOST IMPORTANT JOB AS MINISTER OF FINANCE. FOOD IMPORTS, EXPECIALLY SUCH HIGH-PRICED STAPLES AS PULSES, ARE DUE TO BE STEPPED UP RADICALLY IN COMING MONTHS; DISTRIBUTION, THROUGH THE COOPERATIVES, IS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COLOMB 00876 111221Z

ALWAYS A DIFFICULT EXERCISE AND ONE THAT FELIX WOULD LIKE TO STREAMLINE. THERE ARE ALSO STRONG RUMORS THAT THE RICE RATION WILL BE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY AS SOON AS SUFFICIENT STOCKS CAN BE ACCUMULATED. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, WE UNDERSTAND THE FOOD COMMISSIONER, M.B. SENANAYAKE, IS TO BE REPLACED IN A FEW DAYS.

3. NEW MINISTER OF JUSTICE IS RATNASIRI WICKREMANAYAKE,
WHO CONTINUES AS MINISTER OF PLANTATION INDUSTRIES AS WELL.

4. S.K. K. SURIYARACHCHI, FORMERLY MINISTER OF FOOD,
COOPERATIVES, AND SMALL INDUSTRIES, TAKES OVER INSTEAD
SUBASINGHE'S PORTFOLIO OF INDUSTRIES AND SCIENTIFIC
AFFAIRS. THE PRESENCE OF A MORE MIDDLE -OF-THE-ROAD
MINISTER SHOULD PLEASE THOSE INDUSTRIALISTS WHO FOUND
IT HARD-GOING UNDER LEFTIST T.B. SUBASINGHE.

6. COMMENT: WITH THE NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY DUE TO BE
DISSOLVED IN TEN WEEKS, THE NEW MINISTERS WILL HAVE
ONLY A SHORT TIME IN OFFICE WITH MOST OF THEIR EFFORT
DEVOTED TO ENHANCING THE PARTY'S PROSPECTS FOR ELECTION.

REED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COLOMB00876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770084-0686
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770370/aaaacjoy.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5adb3dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 COLOMBO 750
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3142140
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABINET RESHUFFLE
TAGS: PINT, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5adb3dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009